



Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes

Committee on Root Causes and Responses Meeting Minutes July 13, 2021

On July 13, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. the Committee on Root Causes and Responses held a remote meeting pursuant to applicable law.

The following commissioners were present: Goldenberg, Kelly, Meek, Rosensweig, Co-chair Bahena, and Co-chair Limmer.

The following commissioners were absent: Buys and Reynolds.

The following additional commissioners were present: Bennett.

Co-chair Bahena called the meeting to order. Comm'r. Meek was designated the ad hoc secretary for the meeting. Department of Human Rights Director of Legislative Affairs Adam Flores took a roll call to establish a quorum, as reflected above.

Co-chair Bahena invited commissioners to introduce themselves and to share why they are interested in the Committee, which they did.

Co-chair Bahena noted that the Committee needs to identify appropriate stakeholders. Co-chair Bahena asked what the root causes of hate in school and law enforcement are.

Comm'r. Rosensweig said that there may be a variety of root causes of hate and that the Committee would benefit from hearing from multiple perspectives.

Co-chair Limmer said that there are hate groups and others who that actively foment hate and seek to foster violence. Co-chair Bahena said that implicit bias may also be a factor.

Comm'r. Meek referred to incidents in which law enforcement and military personnel have been identified as members of hate groups. Comm'r. Meek suggested the Committee may need to examine specific environments.

Comm'r. Kelly said the Committee and Commission need to rely on data and not assumptions about law enforcement personnel. Comm'r. Kelly noted a distinction between whether the law enforcement profession creates a specific environment that fosters bias or if it attracts certain individuals.

Discussion. Securing DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Training and Implicit Bias Training for the CDHC.

Co-chair Bahena suggested that implicit bias and DEI training may be beneficial for the entire Commission. Co-chair Bahena asked commissioners for suggestions for trainings.

Comm'r. Bennett said that Comm'r. Goldenberg from the Anti-Defamation League may be able to provide a training. Comm'r. Bennett said that the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) provides trainings that can be offered to commissioners.

Comm'r. Rosensweig suggested Ilana Redstone of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Co-chair Bahena said that it would be helpful for a trainer to reflect the diverse communities and perspectives in Illinois.

Discussion. Call for Committee Goals.

Comm'r. Bennett said it would be helpful for the Committee to hear from a rehabilitated former hate group member. Comm'r. Rosensweig suggested Christian Picciolini of the Free Radicals Project.

Co-chair Limmer suggested the hosts and producers of the "Motive" podcast, as well as Dr. Kathleen Belew of The University of Chicago. Co-chair Limmer also suggested First Amendment and constitutional scholars. Comm'r. Bennett suggested an attorney from Lambda Legal. Comm'r. Rosensweig suggested the general counsel of the American Jewish Committee.

Co-chair Limmer suggested Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss.

Comm'r. Goldenberg said the Committee should consider compiling and centralizing resources for the public.

Co-chair Bahena said the Committee may research types of trainings or interventions that are effective in countering violence and hate.

Comm'r. Goldenberg suggested that commissioners listen to the "Motive" podcast and that reporter Odette Yousef be invited to present to the Committee.

Comm'r. Bennett noted the importance of representing the various regions and populations of Illinois, with which the Committee on Education and Outreach can help.

Comm'r. Rosensweig suggested the Committee explore the role of hate and extremism in prisons.

Co-chair Bahena requested that commissioners review notes from the meeting in order to discuss Committee goals at the next meeting.

Co-chair Limmer said that he and Co-chair Bahena will work with commissioners to determine next meeting date.

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Co-chair Limmer opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

The Committee having no further business, on a motion by Co-chair Limmer and a second from Comm'r. Meek, the meeting was adjourned.